



Firefighters Climb for a Cure

Over 100 Ohio firefighters have already made a commitment to participate in the "Firefighters Climb for a Cure" scheduled for February 23rd at 11:00 a.m. at the Rhodes State Office Tower in Columbus.

More firefighters and emergency services personnel are needed to support this very worthwhile cause. Individuals and four-person relays teams will climb 40 flights of stairs to the top of the Rhodes State Office Tower in downtown Columbus in a timed race in full turnout gear at to raise money for kids and young adults with cystic fibrosis, a life-threatening genetic disorder that cause irreparable damage to the lungs.

If you want to participate, please call or e-mail Shayna Daubert at the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation by February 15, 2008 (Phone: 614-846-2440 E-mail: sdaubert@cff.org) She will help you get registered and give you all the information you need.

Imagine 150-200 firefighters from stations all over Ohio participating in a timed race up 40 flights of stairs to the top floor of the Rhodes State Office Tower to raise money for cystic fibrosis research. State Representative Larry Flowers is the honorary chairman of the event and Andrea Cambern, a WBNS-TV news anchor, will serve as the MC. The Columbus Division of Fire has also helped us tremendously.

This high profile event is going to be quite a spectacle. Picture this:

- Scottish bagpipers and drummers kicking off the event with a stirring musical procession
- Honorary Chairman Larry Flowers (a state representative and a retire fire chief) clanging the fire bell and making opening remarks
- 150-200 firefighters in full gear being "high-fived" by CF patients as they enter the stairwell to begin the 40 flight timed race to the top
- A disc jockey playing upbeat "fire" songs like "Disco Inferno," "Burning Down the House," and "Light My Fire" to motivate the climbers and entertain a crowd of more than 300 supporters (family and friends)

- Exhausted firefighters reaching the top floor and being cheered by CF patients and volunteers
- An exhibition of antique fire equipment
- Food, beverage, t-shirts and other concessions (as profit centers to boost the fundraising total)
- Kids getting their pictures taken with "Sparky the Fire Dog" and playing in the "Hot Stuff for Kids" zone where they can crawl through a maze, put on child-sized firefighter gear, get balloon art made from "Fire Clowns," and participate in other fun activities
- Firefighters getting their picture taken on the back of the "Airgas Chopper" -- a custom-made chopper from Cable TV's "Orange County Choppers."
- The winners of the race being announced, along with the winners of the best firehouse chili in a cook-off contest